

THE VOICE OF THE ORIENT

the spirit which is coming towards
the earth
life is helped in the building of its
home.

Again at birth harmonies of sound
surround

it, and at the ceremony of initiation
the child
is given the mantra which is to be
the key-
note of its life. Then at the hour of
death the

" Shraddas " help the departing spirit
on its way.

The second great lesson we learn
is that of
Law, the automatic working of
cause and
effect, and an education in natural
science is
an excellent preparation for this.
Besides the
great doctrines of Re-incarnation and
Karma the
Hindu learns of the existence of Law
in every
other department of life. He learns
not only
that nothing happens by accident or
chance,

but also that nothing is given for
nothing,
without being duly earned. Of the
existence

of the devas or nature spirits in every
depart-

ment of nature, and how he must pay
a tribute

to these of sacrifice and worship if
he wishes

to reap the fruits of the earth, so
that the

humblest villager is taught to lay a
leaf at the

village shrine.

For instance, a brahman friend of mine, a woman of advanced knowledge, was once engaged for weeks in performing certain ceremonies involving sacrifices of offerings, feeding

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